

# **City of Renton Customer Information Bulletin**

## **Frequently Asked Questions on Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations for Citizens and Customers**

**City of Renton Development Services Division**  
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### **What are the Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations?**

New Renton City Regulations designed to provide a means for prompt retrieval of lost, stolen or abandoned shopping carts in order to promote public safety and improve the image and appearance of the City. Furthermore, these regulations are aimed at preventing the illegal removal of shopping carts from business premises, preventing the possession of illegally removed carts, and preventing the accumulation of illegally removed carts on residential properties.

### **What do the new regulations require businesses to do?**

All businesses providing 11 or more shopping carts for customer use are required to submit a Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Plan. The plan identifies methods for containment and retrieval of shopping carts. Businesses must attach signs to all shopping carts, provide a notice to customers that removal is against City and state laws, provide employee training on shopping cart containment and retrieval, and identify any physical measures to containing shopping carts to the premises. The regulations also require businesses to provide a means of cart retrieval for all carts whose discovery has been notified to the owner.

### **What do I do if I find a lost, stolen or abandoned shopping cart?**

All shopping carts are required to have a sign attached identifying:

1. The owner of the shopping cart or the name of the business establishment, or both
2. Notification to the public of the procedure to be utilized for authorized removal of the cart from the business premises
3. Notification to the public that unauthorized removal of the cart from the premises of the business, or unauthorized possession of the cart, is a violation of City and state law

If a shopping cart is found please contact the business owner as identified on the shopping cart. If the shopping cart remains abandoned, please contact the City of Renton Code Compliance at **(425) 430-7373** or send an email to [codecompliance@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:codecompliance@ci.renton.wa.us).

### **What does the City do if they find a lost, stolen or abandoned shopping cart?**

The City may immediately retrieve any lost, stolen or abandoned shopping cart where the location may impede emergency services. If the cart does not have a sign properly affixed to it, the cart is also subject to immediate retrieval by the City.

The City may also impound any shopping cart found within the City if the shopping cart has not been retrieved by the owner after the City gives a one-day notice.

#### **What is the fiscal impact of these regulations on the City of Renton?**

The City will charge a \$50 per cart fee to the owner if the owner fails to retrieve its impounded shopping carts after receiving notice from the City. This fine provides incentive for cart owners to retrieve carts thereby reducing the amount of lost, stolen or abandoned carts. It also helps the City recoup the cost of impounding the carts. The City may sell or otherwise dispose of any carts not reclaimed from the City within 30 days from the date of notification to the owner.

#### **Are there any businesses that are exempt from the regulations?**

Any retail establishment, which provides a total of 10 or fewer shopping carts, is exempt from the requirements of the Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations.

Any business which implements a locking device on its carts is exempt from any fee associated with the City's impoundment of shopping carts.

#### **Who Do I Contact if I Have Additional Questions?**

If you have further questions regarding the City's Abandoned Shopping Cart Regulations or the requirements of the Shopping Cart Containment and Retrieval Plan; please visit the Land-Use Customer Counter on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, 1055 South Grady Way, or call **(425) 430-7200**.